

colleagues from the Great Lakes region know the importance of this vessel during those 4 months. Without this boat, regional commerce on the water would be significantly impaired. Approximately 14 million tons of cargo are moved on the Great Lakes during the ice season. This cargo includes iron ore, coal, limestone, cement, and grain. These resources are necessary to our entire country and our economy.

In addition to the economic need for ice-breaking on the Great Lakes, there are national defense implications. The *Mackinaw* was christened in 1944 to meet our nation's wartime need for iron ore. Today, more than 70 percent of our nation's steelmaking capacity is located in the Great Lakes basin. Should our country ever become embroiled in a protracted military crisis, our ability to transit the Lakes during periods of ice cover would be crucial.

Mr. President, the *Mackinaw* is showing signs of its age, and the time has come to replace the vessel. After several years of studying a replacement design, the Coast Guard has concluded that a multi-purpose ice-breaking vessel is the preferred option. Not only will this replacement ship perform ice-breaking services, but it also will maintain floating aids-to-navigation. Compared with the construction of a single-purpose icebreaker, the multi-mission design increases the number of available operational days by 38 percent.

Constructing a multi-purpose ice-breaking vessel is a common-sense solution to address the needs of the Great Lakes. I urge my colleagues to support this amendment.●

NOTICE OF HEARING

SUBCOMMITTEE ON WATER AND POWER

Mr. SMITH of Oregon. Mr. President, I would like to announce for the information of the Senate and the public that a legislative hearing has been scheduled before the Subcommittee on Water and Power.

The hearing will take place on Wednesday, March 22, 2000 at 2:30 p.m. in room SD-366 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building in Washington, D.C.

The purpose of this hearing is to receive testimony on the following bills: H.R. 862, To direct the Secretary of the Interior to implement the provisions of an agreement conveying title to a distribution system from the United States to the Clear Creek Community Services District; H.R. 992, to convey the Sly Park Dam and Reservoir to the El Dorado Irrigation District; H.R. 1235, To authorize the Secretary of the Interior to enter into contracts with the Solano County Water Agency, California, to use Solano Project facilities for impounding, storage, and carriage of nonproject water for domestic, municipal, industrial, and other beneficial purposes; S. 2091 and the companion

H.R. 3077, To amend the Act that authorized construction of the San Luis Unit of the Central Valley Project, California, to facilitate water transfers in the Central Valley Project; S. 1659, To convey the Lower Yellowstone Irrigation Project, the Savage Unit of the Pick-Sloan Missouri Basin Program, and the Intake Irrigation Project to the appurtenant irrigation districts; and S. 1836, To extend the deadline for commencement of construction of a hydroelectric project in the State of Alabama.

Because of the limited time available for the hearing, witnesses may testify by invitation only. However, those wishing to submit written testimony for the hearing record should send two copies of their testimony to the Subcommittee on Water and Power, Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, United States Senate, 364 Dirksen Senate Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20510-6150.

For further information, please call Trici Heninger, Staff Assistant, or Colleen Deegan, Counsel, at (202) 224-8115.

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON AGING

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Special Committee on Aging be permitted to meet on March 6, 2000, from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. in Hart 216 for the purpose of conducting a hearing.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON EMERGING THREATS AND CAPABILITIES

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Subcommittee on Emerging Threats and Capabilities of the Committee on Armed Services be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Monday, March 6, 2000, at 2:30 p.m., in open and closed sessions to receive testimony on the Department of Defense's Cooperative Threat Program and the Department of Energy's Russian Threat Reduction Programs.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

UNANIMOUS-CONSENT AGREEMENT—EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. GRASSLEY. Madam President, for our leader, I ask unanimous consent that at 5 p.m. on Tuesday, March 7, the Senate proceed to executive session and immediately proceed to a vote on the confirmation of Calendar No. 423, the nomination of Julio M. Fuentes to be United States Circuit Judge for the Third Circuit.

Finally, I ask unanimous consent that following the vote, the President be notified of the Senate's action, and the Senate then resume legislative business.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. GRASSLEY. I now ask unanimous consent that it be in order to ask for the yeas and nays on the nomination.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. GRASSLEY. Therefore, I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There is a sufficient second.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

ORDERS FOR TUESDAY, MARCH 7, 2000

Mr. GRASSLEY. I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it adjourn until the hour of 10 a.m. on Tuesday, March 7. I further ask unanimous consent that on Tuesday, immediately following the prayer, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, the morning hour be deemed expired, the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day, and the Senate then begin a period of morning business until 12:30 p.m. with Senators speaking for up to 5 minutes each, with the following exceptions:

Senator BROWNBACK, 30 minutes; Senators MURKOWSKI and HATCH, 20 minutes total; Senator COLLINS, 15 minutes; Senator GRAMS, 45 minutes; Senator DORGAN, 20 minutes; and Senator DURBIN, 20 minutes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. GRASSLEY. I further ask consent that the Senate recess from 12:30 to 2:15 on Tuesday for the weekly policy luncheons.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. GRASSLEY. I ask unanimous consent that at 2:15 on Tuesday, the Senate proceed to executive session to consider en bloc Executive Calendar No. 159 and No. 208, the nominations of Marsha Berzon and Richard Paez.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

PROGRAM

Mr. GRASSLEY. For the information of all Senators, following the party luncheons tomorrow, the Senate will begin consideration of two Ninth Circuit judges who are on the calendar. There are a number of Senators who have expressed a desire to speak with respect to those nominations.

Under a previous order, at 5 o'clock p.m. on Tuesday, the Senate will vote on the confirmation of Executive Calendar No. 423, the nomination of Julio Fuentes. Senators can, therefore, expect the next vote to occur at 5 o'clock tomorrow afternoon. Votes are expected each day and possibly evening this week as the Senate attempts to